



AIRPORT EXPRESS  
ENDURANCE RIDE

HOUSTON AIRPORTS  
INVITES THE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

TO THE

2012

**IAH AIRPORT EXPRESS  
ENDURANCE RIDE**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>

**BENEFITING SIRE  
HOUSTON'S THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTERS**

SANCTIONED BY AMERICAN ENDURANCE RIDE CONFERENCE  
SPONSORED BY TEXAS ENDURANCE RIDE ASSOCIATION

**FIRST OF THE THREE RIDES IN THE TEXAS MORTL CHALLENGE SERIES**



The Boy Scouts of the North Houston region are invited to join the Houston Airport System and George Bush Intercontinental Airport for an annual event that provides young people to build character, earn the Horsemanship Merit Badge, earn Service hours through participating in citizenship and volunteerism, and primitive camp the entire weekend on the grounds of the airport with planes flying over head!

We want to build future leaders by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun just as the Boy Scouts of America.

Boy Scouts – come have a great weekend away from home in the great outdoors to practice outdoor cooking and other skills with your fellow scouts and crews. Try a new adventure of camping on airport property with the glow of airplane lights buzzing around in the night all in a safe environment.

Whether for one day or the entire weekend, come out to be a part of one Houston's fastest growing outdoor events that you won't find anywhere else in this region. Show-off your camping skills, your rock climbing abilities, be a part of the event management operations and safety team, and most of all learn everything there is to know from

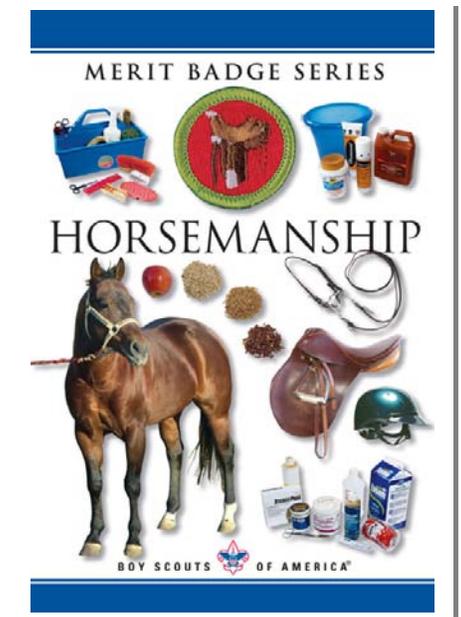
leading experts about horses and horseback riding. During a series of interactive programs, each scout will complete all of their "Horsemanship" merit badge requirements while having fun, learning new exciting information, and overcoming the challenge of working with a horse.

The first segment of on-site instruction will include the following:

- Horse safety and precautions taken when handling a horse
- Grooming, picking hooves, tacking, horse care after the ride
- Horse breeds, color and special features of each breed
- Discover the different feeds and special nutrition for each breed
- Hands-on learning about the 15 main parts of a horse
- Understand what colic is and other common horse health problems
- Understand what conformation and soundness vs. lameness
- Hoof care and why horses need to wear shoes
- Compare English and Western riding styles
- Learn the differences of bits and bridles
- Identify 10 parts of the saddle and bridle
- Learn to properly saddle and bridle a horse
- Learn how to safely mount and dismount a horse

Following the interactive demonstration and discussion, scouts will have the opportunity to complete the badge requirements at Cypress Trails during a riding lesson that focuses on learning:

- About fire safety precautions taken in a barn and around horses
- How to approach and lead a horse safely from a stall, corral, or field
- How to tie the horse securely
- Walk the horse in a straight line for 60 feet
- Walk the horse in a half-circle of not more than 16 feet in radius
- Trot or jog the horse in a straight line for 60 feet
- Trot or jog the horse in a half-circle of not more than 30 feet in radius
- Lope (canter) the horse in a straight line for at least 60 feet
- Lope (canter) the horse in a half-circle not more than 30 feet in radius
- Halt straight
- Back up straight four paces
- Halt and dismount



Each Scout will have the opportunity to work with event management and safety personnel for 2 or 4 hour rotating shifts at various stations (ride Management will provide transportation) ranging from:

- Veterinarian Checks #1 & 3 (*located at the Houston Airport System Administration Building on John F. Kennedy Blvd.*)
- Designated Trail spotting points for riders (*team leaders will be provided radios for communication to base camp*)
- Traffic and crossing control with the Houston Police Department and IAH Airport Public Safety (*tentative – not confirmed*)
- Base Camp logistics and operations (*located off FM 1960*)

In between rotating shifts, Scouts get to kick back at Base Camp for lunch and climb a Rock Wall to prove their strength and ability to scale a massive structure. A waiver must be signed by each Scout's guardian or responsible party before climbing and a donation of \$5 is asked to climbing the Rock Wall. Proceeds go to SIRE and the Houston Interfaith Chapel.

So what are you waiting for... hitch up your saddle and put on your boots to get ready to join us for the second annual "IAH Airport Express Endurance Ride" on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) for a fun and exciting weekend and be a part of our event management team for the daily 25 and 50 mile ride helping riders meet their goals. In addition, a 10+ mile "Fun Ride" will be hosted for those that would like to find out more about the sport of Endurance, or just want get out to enjoy the beautiful airport trails.

If you don't know, Endurance Riding is an athletic event for both horse and rider. The goal is to complete the marked trail within the time given as established by the American Endurance Ride Conference standards with a horse that is fit to continue from vet checkpoint to the next. All horses must pass a complete vet check before, during and after the ride.

One of the programs you will learn about is an elite group that rides on the property of one the nation's busiest airport, commonly known as the "**AIRPORT RANGERS**". Amongst other airports nationwide, the Airport Rangers program is unique mainly because more than 400 citizens and airport supporters including off-duty law enforcement officers mount up on their horses to provide an extra layer of security as officially badged members of the airport team. With the increasing need to secure airport perimeter fence lines and surrounding property, Airport Rangers patrol along the perimeter of the 13,000 acres at George Bush Intercontinental Airport. In return for keeping an eye out for and reporting any suspicious activity in the area, Airport Rangers have a pristine location, including wooded trails to ride any time of the year.

A vital program to the Houston Airport System, the Airport Rangers have become a trusted group that provides the airport with extra eyes and ears in areas that most security patrols cannot easily access.

For additional information about the Airport Ranger program, visit: [www.iahrangers.com](http://www.iahrangers.com) or [www.fly2houston.com](http://www.fly2houston.com)

## EVENT BENEFACTOR'S

This year's benefactor is **SIRE, Houston's Therapeutic Equestrian Centers**. SIRE is a non-profit therapeutic horseback riding program which uses the spirit and movement of the horse to benefit people with disabilities. SIRE has been active in the Houston area for the past 28 years and currently serves about 160 clients per week at sites in Hockley, Spring, and Ft. Bend County, Texas. Through the use of therapeutic horseback riding, benefits to the clients can include improved gross and fine motor skills, improved balance and posture and the building of self-esteem. SIRE is a premier accredited center with PATH International, Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International.

And lastly, this year marks a first for the IAH Airport Express Endurance Ride and the state of Texas. This year's event has been selected to be the first of three rides to commemorate April Mortl in the **Texas Mortl Challenge Series**. April Mortl was loved and respected by many as a wonderful wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, and endurance rider. The Texas Mortl Challenge Series will be held in her memory each year. All proceeds and support will benefit Horsefeathers Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Edgewood, Texas. Please support the Texas Mortl Challenge Series and remember April by doing what she loved doing – riding. An entry form is listed further below.

## EVENT LOCATION

The George Bush Intercontinental Airport is located in North Houston, TX. Camping will be at the North Trailhead located at 5100 FM 1960. There will be MAJOR signage on FM 1960 for the event site and horse parking. There is plenty of room for all sizes of rigs, camping and pens (bring your own pen). One parking area is a mix of gravel and cement base; two others are soft grassy pasture type. One area will allow continuous generator usage; the others will require them off at 10:30 PM. Port-O-Cans and horse water will be provided by the Houston Airport System. Please note: No Electric hook ups will be available for rigs.

**Directions:** From I-45 – take exit #66 (FM 1960) east for 5 miles. A marked turn will be on your right just past Farrell Rd.  
From Highway 59 take the FM 1960 exit west for 6 miles. A marked turn will be on your left.

## TRAILS

The IAH Airport trail surface is mostly natural grass with some sand. It's mostly flat to gently rolling hills along with some beautifully covered wooded and open areas. Each flagged and signed trail will take you through wooded areas, clearings, and bayou crossings. Road crossings are minimal and will be monitored by the Houston Police Department and IAH Airport Public Safety. The Airport will provide water on trail. Rain or shine the ride continues, so if it rains there will be some good mud to ride through.

If you have questions or need more information, visit [fly2houston.com/airportexpress](http://fly2houston.com/airportexpress) or find us on Facebook.com – search for “EnduranceRideHouston” or simply send us an email to: [ridehouston2012@yahoo.com](mailto:ridehouston2012@yahoo.com).

## SCHEDULE FOR THE AIRPORT EXPRESS

### FRIDAY – February 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Gates to the camping area will open at 9 am
- **Registration** – begins at high noon
- **Pre-Ride Vet-In** - 3:00 pm until dark
  - Note: Pre-Ride vet checks will not be conducted after sunset unless we have proper lighting.
  - Late arrivals will receive their pre-ride vet check in the morning prior to ride start in that case.
- **SIRE Demonstration** – 5:00 pm
- **Dinner & Pre-Ride Meeting** – 6:00 pm
  - Dinner is for the Riders & Crews on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Food Vendor will be available @ 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Vet Check both ride days.
- **New Riders Meeting** – 7:00 pm
- Check your horses and mosey off to bed

### SATURDAY – February 4<sup>th</sup>

- Check-in 15 min. prior to your start time to qualify for the ride
- 7:15 am for **50-milers**—Start Time 7:30 am **50 Mile Cut Off – 7:30 pm**
- 7:45 am for **25-milers**—Start Time 8:00 am **25 Mile Cut Off – 2:00 pm**
- Any time after 8:30 am for **10+ miles FUN RIDE**. Check-in with official timer before you leave.
- **Fun Riders Cut Off** – 1 pm (For safety, it is necessary to clear the course as the 50/25 milers will be coming in on the same trail.)
- **Registration for Sunday** starts at 9:00 am
- **Pre-Ride Vet-In** - 3:00 pm until dark
- Note: Pre-Ride vet checks will not be conducted after sunset unless we have proper lighting.
- Late arrivals will receive their pre-ride vet check in the morning prior to ride start
- **Dinner** with musical entertainment - 6:00 pm
- **New Riders Meeting** – 7:30 pm
- **Awards and Special recognitions** – 8:00 pm

### SUNDAY – February 5<sup>th</sup>

- Check in 15 min. prior to your start time to qualify for the ride.
- 7:15 am for **50-milers**—Start Time 7:30 am **50 Mile Cut Off – 7:30 pm**
- 7:45 am for **25-milers**—Start Time 8:00 am **25 Mile Cut Off – 2:00 pm**
- Any time after 8:30 am and before 10:30 am for **10+ miles FUN RIDE**. Check-in with official timer before you leave.
- **Fun Riders Cut Off** – 1 pm (For safety, it is necessary to clear the course as the 50/25 milers will be coming in on the same trail.)
- **Awards and Special Recognitions** – Approximately 1 hour after all riders have finished